

Letters to the editor

This city needs a change

Dear Editor:

The City of Carbondale needs a change in government. The city is going 'down the drain' and I'm ashamed to say I'm from this city.

It's not the people, it is the way it is being run by the present city government.

The main factor is the Home Rule Charter. It is no good for a city like ours because the charter is being abused and has bad features.

We need to go back to the old city form of city government.

The mayor can't see the council and council can't see the mayor. All they do is bitch and fight and it looks bad in the newspapers. Who ever heard of a mayor with an unlisted phone number?

Chances are you will see petitions floating around the city in the near future, a petition to put the Home Rule Charter on the May 18 Primary Ballot so the voters can vote to keep it, or do away with it. Without it, the city will save money because there won't be as many council members or people in the administration. We are losing money now with the Home Rule Charter.

What company would come here when they read about us in the newspapers - a city of parking lots and empty stores?

To run a city you need team work between the mayor and council. That we don't have and never will with the Home Rule Charter.

The voters of Carbondale are the team and they can do something about it. Let's get together and make this a better city. Everyone talks but no one wants to do anything about our problems. Well, your chance is coming up soon -- don't miss it.

Signed,

A Concerned Citizen
Name withheld by request

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

Dear Concerned Citizen:

While I am certainly for making the city a better place to live and work, I have several questions for you and all the city residents.

1) Is it the charter, or the current people on council and in the city administration who are causing the problems in this city?

2) Would the return to the old form of government benefit the residents both financially and politically?

3) Would the citizens have a better chance to be heard if the Home Rule Charter was dropped and the smaller council and fewer administrators are brought back into running Carbondale?

Your idea is definitely one that should be investigated thoroughly.

But another thought should also be discussed -- what about putting the elected representatives (mayor and all council members) back on the ballot for the May Primary and see if they can withstand the voters wrath on a recall vote?

I am sure some changes would come about if a petition to put both the Home Rule Charter and all elected city officials back on the ballot were signed by the necessary number of people. Maybe then the shenanigans in city hall would stop and some concerned, responsible and necessary leadership would be able to lead this city into a better, progressive year.

That is my point of view and I hope we get some letters on this subject from our readers.

David Baum